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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF CROATIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Note verbale dated 20 February 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour, on instructions from the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, His Excellency Mr. Jean Videnov, on Bulgaria's foreign policy and the future of the Balkans, delivered at a meeting with the Diplomatic Corps at Sofia on 7 February 1996 (see annex).

The Permanent Representative of Bulgaria would appreciate it if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 20 (b), 28, 30, 81 and 91, and of the Security Council.

ANNEX

Statement of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria on Bulgaria's foreign policy and the future of the Balkans, delivered at a meeting with the Diplomatic Corps at Sofia on 7 February 1996

Most of you will probably recall that a year ago, on 3 February 19 met in this very hall in order to inform you about the foreign policy i of the newly elected Government of the Democratic Left.

An objective analysis of the period under review would show that i foreign policy area, as indeed in all other areas, the Government has consistently pursued the objectives it had announced then: European orientation, regional stability and regional security and cooperation.

These guidelines presupposed a better balance of different trends corresponding activation in some along with the required continuity in policy. In addition the country's foreign policy activity had to be ad

Continuity is to be found in all areas in which our foreign policy active in recent years. This holds true of the promotion of relations partners like the United States of America and a number of the Far East countries. We made an effort to intensify relations with traditional p like the Russian Federation and other CIS countries, the central Europe countries and a number of Middle East and also of Latin American States general, what had been set as an objective - continuity, balance and pr was more or less achieved.

It was particularly important that we made an essential step in on three main lines of our foreign policy - the European one. At the Euro Council meeting in Madrid last December, the Government officially subm Bulgaria's application for accession to the European Union. It is note that a week ago the second meeting of the Bulgaria-EU Association Counc appreciated what the Government and the country had done so far on Euro issues. The recent letter from the Italian chair to inform that the Bu accession application was officially forwarded is yet another recogniti

Naturally, the Bulgarian policy's European line intersects with ma and problems that the country daily confronts in the region where we li

This brings me to the problems of regional stabilization. Last ye Bulgaria continued to abide consistently by the line it had pursued thr the conflict west of our borders. That line was expressed in consisten restraint and non-interference, parity to the sides to the conflict, a approach seeking a gradual elimination of the economic sanctions regime with progress in the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

consequence of the enforcement of the United Nations-imposed economic s
In our view, the question of overcoming the consequences of the sanctio
not be overlooked.

Naturally, we welcomed the decision to start a peace process with
involvement of all parties to the conflict. Therefore, we welcome the
and, moreover, we are ready to support it in every way in all its aspec
the scope of our capabilities.

Conclusion of the peace agreements opens up new prospects to stepp
efforts to the benefit of regional security and cooperation, the third
Government's foreign policy priorities.

In our opinion, two groups of tasks are today facing the internati
community and particularly the countries of the region in the present p
conflict period. The first group covers the successful implementation
framework peace agreements on Bosnia and Herzegovina; the second group
the broader aspects of the creating of prerequisites, and in future, of
mechanisms for lasting security and intensive cooperation in the region

With respect to the former, Bulgaria has already affirmed its read
contribute as much as it can to the implementation of the military aspe
the peace process. We expect that the specific conditions of the Bulga
contribution to the multinational forces mission in Bosnia will be agre
a result of this dialogue.

We too share the view that exclusively military forms applied on t
and dissociated from civilian and humanitarian forms cannot guarantee t
achievement of lasting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina or in the adjoin
regions. We share Karl Bildt's opinion that the improvement of people'
its normalization, the solution of elementary daily problems and the re
of the processes of reconstruction and reintegration are of critical im

Therefore, today, with greater conviction, we voice our proposals
Bulgaria's active inclusion in the various both urgent and long-term
reconstruction programmes. We are encouraged by the initial positive r
by the EU and the other international structures. However, we expect a
towards active practical implementation. Bulgaria has the required cap
capabilities and conditions. There is the geographic proximity and goo
knowledge of the region and conditions to work there. We have a number
proved competitive advantages that should be used in the reconstruction
programmes in the region.

With regard to security, development and cooperation between count
the region today, we believe there can be five possible lines of action

- Establishment of lasting good-neighbourly relations. We belie
  Balkan countries must unambiguously reaffirm principles like

- Transborder cooperation. Recognition of the inviolability of should not presuppose that they are hermetically sealed. Thes cover a wide range: passport and customs regulations and form cooperation in the effort to combat illicit traffic and immigr etc;

- Accelerated and intensive development of transport, telecommun and energy infrastructure in compliance with European standard the nine principal trans-European networks agreed on by the tr ministers of Europe in Crete in 1994. Infrastructure developm important as a precondition for better communications and also attraction of private and public investment, and naturally, as factor of political stability;

- Promotion of trade and investment; establishment of free trade harmonization of legislation in line with international standa expectations; making the region attractive and competitive fro point of view of investors and in comparison to other regions world;

- Bilateral and multilateral solution of legal, cultural and soc issues by legal instruments and administrative procedures faci the freedom of movement from the receptive countries. Complic arising in ethnic relations will be successfully solved in thi context.

We are aware that unless the external key factors of the internati community are positively involved, local initiatives will find it hard through and yield results.

Advancement in each of these areas depends first and foremost on t countries of the region. With this concept in mind, Bulgaria's Governm like to suggest the following formats for practical action.

Let me start with Balkan cooperation. The format today covers Alb Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, Cr Macedonia and Yugoslavia. The pan-Balkan process was retarded but not discontinued or destroyed by the conflict in former Yugoslavia. May I that the last meeting of Balkan Foreign Ministers at Tirana in 1990 too decision that the next meeting should take place in the capital of Bulg Sofia. Bulgaria is ready to a host a meeting of the Balkan Foreign Min The agenda might include joint efforts to enforce the frame agreements in Bosnia and cover the above-stated five lines of joint action.

Infrastructure development is the next set of issues around which efforts of the parties concerned could focus. To put it mildly, entire countries in the region, the new ones in particular, are far from moder communication standards. The existing infrastructure needs to be inter

Last November, Bulgaria hosted an OSCE seminar on the role of infrastructures in the Black Sea region. The work and conclusions of t seminar outlined the practical need of a focal converging point where r exchange of information and contacts on infrastructure issues will be m believe Sofia could be a suitable centre in this respect. We believe t active cooperation will be possible in the future on these issues betwe countries of the Black Sea Cooperation Region and the Central European Initiative.

Other initiatives of European cooperation should be launched in cl correspondence with European aspirations and calling of the peoples and societies of the Balkan region.

EU members or associated countries are called on to play an active this respect. Bulgaria has already felt the advantages of this type of cooperation with its neighbours Greece and Romania. It will be natural to expand this circle by making regular contact with the other "troika" Austria, Hungary and Slovakia, which recently likewise started this kin trilateral cooperation . I believe that the listed countries could mai "arc of stability" along the borders of the regions that until recently restless. This will promote the consolidation of the process of pacifi stabilization, reconstruction and reintegration and along with that mak a conductor of integration impulses like the River Danube.

In conclusion, I would like to inform you that yesterday I had the opportunity to present most of these ideas in Davos where this time the gave significant attention to the Balkan region. In my opinion, they a interest. I suggest you bring them to the attention of your Government the one hand, this would be useful in view of further contacts and coop with our partners of Europe and the world. On the other hand, it would useful in relation to the Bulgarian Government's specific initiative th would like to officially announce today, namely, the intention to hold of the Balkan countries' Foreign Ministers in 1996. It should give an to the other two undertakings: infrastructure projects of common inter cooperation between the CEI and BSEC countries.

Bulgaria is calling for a joint formula of lasting efficiency for stabilization, regional security and cooperation. We trust in the poss of a new better future in the Balkans as part of twenty-first century E Bulgaria stands ready to work indefatigably and within the scope of her capability to translate this policy into reality.